

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 stand allowed. The specification and claim 9 are amended. Claim 9 is amended to correct an antecedent basis issue and the specification is amended to correct a grammatical error. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6 stand allowed. The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9-11 is appreciated, they being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9-11, as well as pending claims 7 and 8 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,650,231 to Tinari et al. (Tinari). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tinari fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Tinari fails to disclose a sewing machine comprising a cylinder bed extending in a predetermined direction; a cloth holding frame for holding a work cloth; a moving member supporting the cloth holding frame and moved in the predetermined direction; a moving member driving unit for driving the moving member in the predetermined direction; and a guiding member provided in the cylinder bed for guiding the moving member so that the moving member is moved in the predetermined direction, as recited in claim 7.

Tinari relates to a sewing machine useful for sewing garments having a curved configuration such as cuffs, collars, and the like (col. 1, lines 6-8). The sewing machine includes a rotatable sewing table 14 having a curved sewing surface for supporting the material to be sewn. Clamping means 16 is associated with the sewing table for holding the material to be sewn against the curved surface thereof (col. 1, lines 53-60). A material supporting member is provided for guiding material to be sewn and to register with the

curved surface of the sewing table and beneath the clamping means. The member includes a plurality of curved blades 18a-18c. The curved blades are mounted upon a pair of disks 20 and 22 which are in turn mounted on one end of an axially movable inner shaft 50. In operation, when a port 31 of a pneumatic cylinder 28 is pressurized, it forces a piston 27 into the cylinder 28 and thereby axially moves the inner shaft 50 toward the sewing head 12 until the blades 18a-18c come into register beneath the clamping means 16 with the curved sewing surface of table 14 (col. 2, lines 1-19).

It is alleged in the Office Action that the rotatable sewing table 14 corresponds to the claimed cylindrical bed extending the predetermined direction. It is further alleged that the material supporting member 18a-18c corresponds to the cloth holding frame recited in the claims. However, as clearly described in the specification of Tinari, the clamping means 16 holds the material to be sewn against the curved surface thereof (see col. 1, lines 58-60). Thus, the blades 18a-18c do not correspond to a cloth holding frame but merely are another surface to support material, as described in the specification at Tinari.

It is also alleged in the Office Action that the disks 20, 22 correspond to the moving member recited in the rejected claims. However, the disks 20, 22 support the material member 18a-18c and are mounted on an axially movable shaft 50. Thus, the disks 20, 22 do not correspond to a moving member that supports a cloth holding frame, as recited in the rejected claims.

It is also alleged in the Office Action that the drive motor D corresponds to a moving member driving unit for driving the moving member in a predetermined direction. The drive unit D is described in Tinari as being connected to the sewing table 14 by a pulley 64 and a belt 63 and to the outer rotatable shaft 60 which is rotatably mounted within bearings 30 and 32. The drive means D merely acts to rotate the shaft 50 and the sewing table in a circumferential direction. Thus, it appears from the interpretation of the components of

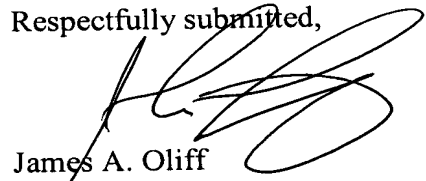
Tinari that the predetermined direction is being interpreted as a rotational or circumferential direction. Under that interpretation, the predetermined direction does not correspond to the definition of that direction as the term is used in this application. Applicants point out that claims yet unpatented are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification during examination of the patent application *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d 1393 (1969). Accordingly, Tinari fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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